

# THE KALIFORNSKI ADRIATIC HERITAGE

SPRING 2005

Santa Caterina Valfurva, Italy 2/2005

Croatia's **Janica Kostelic** left a sick bed to win the slalom, gasping for breath at the finish line after becoming the first woman in 23 years to sweep three ski titles at the world championships.

**Kostelic**, who skipped the giant slalom competition because of a high fever and cough, was third after the opening leg but skied an amazing second run to successfully defend her title. She captured the downhill and combined.

**Kostelic** doubled over after her latest victory and wiped her forehead with snow before being helped off the course by team officials.

"I'm ill and want only to go to bed. I have no more strength," she said. "Before my run I tried to eat as much chocolate as possible in order to refuel my energy. I'm lucky."

The previous woman to win three gold medals at the worlds was Switzerland's Erika Hess (slalom, giant slalom, combined) in 1982 in Schladming, Austria. \*\*

Submitted by Nina Matulich

*The individuals who succeed are the efficient few. They are the few who have the ambition and will power to develop themselves.*

*Herbert N. Casson*

Is Croatia the new California?

February 6, 2005 Washington DC

Croatian officials are finding an appreciative audience for their grape products on Capitol Hill. Croatian red zinfandel and others flowed when the Congressional Croatian Caucus was launched with 40 representatives and 2 senators signing on as bipartisan members. At the reception the talk concerned a newly discovered link between California and Croatian zinfandel grapes, specifically the Croatian varietal called crljenak kastelanski. Nine other Californians, including George Radanovich (R-Calif), are included in the newly formed Congressional Wine Caucus. The embassy's deputy chief, Marijan Gubic adds, "Croatia is not known yet in America as a wine-producing country, but increasingly we hope to be"

Vatican City February 11, 2004

John Paul II appointed Archbishop Nicola Eterovic, apostolic nuncio in Ukraine, as secretary general of the Synod of Bishops. Nicola Eterovic, a Croatian, was born in Pucisca, Brac Island, on January 20, 1951. Ordained a priest in June 1977, he has a licentiate in theological and pastoral sciences relating to the missions. The Synod of Bishops is a permanent institution that offers advice to the Pope in the governance of the Church.

*Eterovic is the uncle of Franka Derpich-Colendich and Lena Derpich - Edelmaier*

Submitted by Geri Derpich - Heebner

NEWSLETTER OF THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION. INC.

P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, California 95077

(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS, & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

EDITORS: Nada Kostovic' and Nina Matulich.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great time everyone had at our Christmas pork dinner on Saturday, December 18, 2004. The exquisite meal was prepared by our chef, Peter Kovacich, with 152 people attending.

Special thanks go out to Nada Kostovic' for the povitica, Nick Rajkovich for the green olives, Tony Matulich coming all the way from Ione and bringing a delicious cheese cake he made.

More thanks to Geri Heebner, helped by Chris Justus, for the decorations, Nina Matulich for the reservations, Ann Cernokus and Adeline Bettencourt, the cake servers, Helen Ukestad for the raffle, Mary Siefke for the drink tickets, and finally John Vodanovich and Steve Zupan for the bartending.

Mark the date of Saturday, April 23, 2005 for the Spring rack of lamb dinner. This promises to be a great event, with a special jazz combo *Nada and The Jazz Elite* entertaining us with jazz vocals and instrumentals following the sumptuous meal. It will be a perfect time to welcome Spring, sit back and relax, while savoring the good music and food. Hope to see each and every one of you there!

Thank You,

Steve Belick



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Even though Mother Nature may still have a few more drops of rain in store for us, essentially it's Spring. The day light hours last longer, the air is becoming softer and warmer and suddenly our thoughts and preoccupations drift to the great outdoors. Here in our little corner of the world, Spring unleashes the sunny temperate climate and soft breezes that are the envy of many of our relatives back East.

In this Spring issue of the Kalifornski you'll find many interesting facts and tidbits which co-editor, Nina Matulich, has collected for these pages. So enjoy browsing through as you watch the final drops of rain dampen the earth. And take time to ponder where in the yard you will dig in those summer tomato plants once the temperatures warm sufficiently. (*Beefsteak or Early Girl?*)

We all can count ourselves amongst the lucky few, to live in such an idyllic area, where not a drop of rain will spoil the perfect Spring and Summer that lies ahead of us. Fortunate too, are we to be members of the SACO organization that provides us with a reason to celebrate our rich ethnic heritage and the friendships we have enjoyed over the years. Pete Kovacich, our new V.P. and chef extraordinaire will be creating a lovely meal in celebration of this season. I look forward to joining with you on April 23rd to honor Spring and our lovely Santa Cruz County home.

Posdrav,

Nada Kostovic'

## SACO OFFICERS

President – Steve Belick 662-3859  
Vice President – Peter Kovacich 724-0071  
Treasurer – Jo Franich - Puhera 724-8930

Recording Secretary Geri Derpich – Heebner 728-2666  
Financial / Corresponding Secretary –  
Nina Matulich 724-7971



# THE TRAVEL SECTION

## LONELY PLANET GUIDE BOOK STAFFERS #1 CHOICE FOR 2005 IS – CROATIA.

Croatia soared to the top of this year's poll after a fourth place finish last year. The country's appeal was its unique combination of culture, history, cuisine, accessibility and affordability.

As one staffer wrote, "This is Croatia's year. It appeals to a wide range of travelers with its rich diversity of attractions. It has not yet been over-touristed, but it has developed an excellent tourism infrastructure – so that it suits both adventurous travelers and those who need a degree of comfort in their planning."

As in previous poll five places clearly emerged more popular than others. China - 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Argentina - 3<sup>rd</sup>, United States - 4<sup>th</sup>, Costa Rica - 5<sup>th</sup> (tied), Italy - 5<sup>th</sup> (tied). Other countries rounding out the top spots were Australia and New Zealand, Laos, Libya, Vietnam and Thailand.

There are many exciting things happening in Croatia now. Boutique hotels are booming and small hotela are popping up all along the Croatian Adriatic Coast, on the islands as well as in continental regions. The large international hotel chains are also expanding. The Westin and Arcotel recently opened properties in Zagreb, while Hilton is working on the restoration of the Hotel Imperial in Dubrovnik.

A new highway connecting Zagreb with Dalmatia was completed a few months ago, while ambitious plans to extend the highway to Dubrovnik were unveiled. Simultaneously, Croatian Rail is working on further upgrades to the rail connection between Zagreb and Split which will cut travel time by an additional 30 minutes bringing it down to a little over 5 hours.

Additionally, Croatian skies will soon see a new airline. On December 15, 2004, Dubrovnik shipping giant Atlantska Plovidba and the Dubrovnik International airport jointly announced the creation of Dubrovnik Airlines. The new airline will take off for



the Easter season of 2005 with its fleet of two MD-82's purchased from a major Eastern European carrier. Dubrovnik International Airport has been seeing an increase in traffic volume by more than 25% each year with total traffic for 2004 surpassing 880,000 passengers.

## SPLIT

On Croatia's Dalmation Coast, Split has a vibrant old town, with narrow Venetian-style alleys and piazzas and the remains of a fourth-century palace complex. A mecca for hipsters, the city has a lively café scene, fine seafood restaurants, and a busy port where you can catch regular ferries to the islands of Brac and Hvar. Nearby Trogir is an architectural gem, and, like Split, a UNESCO world Heritage Site.

Submitted by Nina Matulich

*"Now the city of Korchula was a goldsmith's toy, a tortise made of precious metals, sitting on its peninsula as on a show-stand, and we were chugging past a suburb of villas, pink and white like sugar almonds. We passed a headland or two and came to a bay wide enough to be noble, and narrow enough to be owned. On its lip were moor and rock, and behind them olive terraces and almond orchards rose to scrub and bleakness. A track ran up to a high village in a crevice of this bleakness, and the Cardinal, laughing, told us that its inhabitants plagued the central and the local authorities for a better road down to this bay. "And we say, 'But why? You have a perfectly good road down to Korchula!' And they say, 'But Korchula is not our port. This bay should be our port.' So you see the little world is the same as the big world, and both are silly."*

From "Black Lamb and Grey Falcon"  
by Rebecca West



# APPRECIATION SECTION

Christmas Dinner December 18, 2004

Desserts made by:

Adeline Bettincourt, Ann Cernokus, Gig Franusich, Geri Heebner, Pauline Herber, Betty Jones, Chris Justus, Nina Matulich, Tony Matulich, Agnes Mifsud, Nada Kostovic', Cathy Moresco, Polly Patrone, Mary Siefke, Pat Solano, Rita Stringari, Helen Ukestad, Slavica Zalac, Jacqueline Zadravec

Raffle Prizes furnished by:

Ann Backovich, Mary Basich, Steve Belick, Adeline Bettencourt, Sue Bloom, Jane Borg, Charlotte Car, Frances Davis, Ruth Fiorovich, Jimmie Franich, Nita Gizdich, Geri Heebner, Pauline Herber, Betty Jones, Lorraine Jurach, Chris Justus, Antoinette Lukrich, Nina Matulich, Tony Matulich, Ken & Ethalyn Miller, Susan Peterson, Bill Resetar, SACO, Mary Siefke, Jan & Dale Skillcorn, Alex Solano, Ann Soldo, Edie Stene, Helen Ukestad, John Vodanovich, Jacqueline Zadravec, Steve Zupan

1 gift bottle of brandy from Lynn Bogisich Furtado in memory of her Mother, Mildred Bogisich Meyers.

Thank you to all Providing the wonderful desserts and raffle prizes at our annual Christmas Dinner.  
Hvala and Sretan Uskrs  
(Thank you and Belated Happy Easter)  
Nina Matulich

*It was the best sarma I had ever tasted: small, tightly wrapped in sauerkraut and compact. The sarma is made of minced meat mixed with chopped onions, some garlic, salt, a whole egg and spices. The Bosnian sarma comes without sauce and is served with sour cream instead, which gives it that special, delicious taste. I used to make it myself from time to time, but I would mix rice into the meat and make a sauce of sweet red paprika, the variation of the recipe on the Adriatic coast, where I come from.*

From Café Europa by Slavenka Drakulic'



*Excerpt from "The Slavic People in America"*

The Slavic-American often endeavored to keep alive some of the traditions of the old culture. The immigrant picnic, for example, has always been a familiar part of community life. The traditional foods served at these picnics, such as barbecued lamb and firey plum brandy, kept alive the memory of the old land. But the most dramatic link to the homeland has always been music. In the largest canters of immigration the South Slavic musical heritage is kept.

A popular South Slavic dance is the kolo (circle), accompanied by the traditional instrument, the **tamburitsa**, a mandolin-like stringed instrument. The immigrants carried their **tamburitsas** with them to the New World, and Sunday afternoons were filled with Kolo dancing and folksongs played by local **tamburitsa** bands. During Theodore Roosevelt's presidency a **tamburitsa** band ("Hail Croatia") performed at the White House. So popular is this **Tamburitsa** music that G. Mennen Williams, former governor of Michigan, proclaimed December 8, 1957 as "**Tamburitsa Day**" in his state.

In the 1930's the first University-based **tamburitsa** orchestra was formed at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. In 1937 the group moved to Duquesne University in Pittsburg, where they have achieved international fame.

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**ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY**

**Thursday, May 19, 2005 at 8:00 pm**

**Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts**

**Tickets - \$19 adult / \$13 Child call 1- 650-903-6000**

If you are interested in attending this event call President Steve Belick at 662-3859 to see about car-pooling







## CORRESPONDENCE

Hi Nina – What a great time we had at dinner. Lots of people to visit with - Nita Gizdich (Christmas Dinner 12/18/04)

Dear Nina: Had a great time at SACO's Christmas Dinner – The Food was great. Frances Davis

We thank you all for your concern. Scotty & Angela Atkins

Thank you for having me perform at your Holiday Festivities and the wonderful dinner. Frank Lima aka Julio Morgani

Dear Nina: We had a wonderful time with all those nice people, and you too. Elsie Alciati from Morgan Hill

Dear SACO, Thank you so much for the very generous donation I received. I am sorry that it has taken me so long for this to get to you. Maybe I'll run into some of you in Croatia this summer. Lindsey Pavlovich (scholarship recipient)



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gloria Resetar Watsonville

Nick & Mary Rajkovich Aptos

Carl & Jeanne Watkins Watsonville

Catherine Dabo Hollister

Helen Mekis Ostojka Hollister

Rita Stringari Watsonville

**REMINDER TO SACO MEMBERS** The annual dues have not been paid by several members and should be paid Immediately. Please notify SACO if you no longer wish to maintain your membership. Thank You

## IN MEMORUIM

George J. "Studie" Kralj, 96 years, November 24, 2004  
- Watsonville – Husband of Alice E. Kralt

Paul Milladin, 85 years, January 19, 2005 –  
Watsonville – Father of Paul Milladin III

George Jurickovich, 81 years, January 19, 2005 – Aptos  
– Husband of Joan Jurickovich and father of Gayle & Georgia Jurickovich & Linda Kalman

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Saturday, April 23, 2005** – Woman's Club -- Rack of Lamb – Prepared by Pete Kovacich

**Sunday, July 10, 2005** – Corralitos Padre Park BBQ

**Saturday, December 17, 2005** – Woman's Club – Christmas Dinner

Flyers will be mailed prior to events regarding time, price, etc.

## REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

John Basor forwarded this information and asked that we include it in the newsletter.

Ivan Kralj is 13 years old and is from Cavat, Konavle, Croatia and he has been in hospitals for most of his young life. The only hope for Ivan now is a kidney transplant and he has been on the waiting list for almost 2 years. If you would like to help Ivan, there is an account open in his behalf at Union Bank of California #1921043830 under the name of John & Jelka Basor and Martin Lasich. For more information contact John or Jelka at 728-7766.



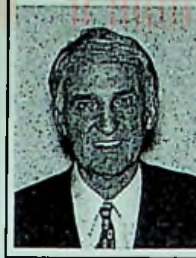


## ADRIATIC TRAVEL AGENCY

CST # 1013114-10

**JELKA BASOR**  
Manager

948 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076  
Bus.: (831) 728-7766 / FAX: (831) 728-0379  
e-mail: adriaticjb@aol.com



**JOHN BASOR**  
REALTOR®

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(831) 728-5605 RESIDENCE  
adriaticjb@aol.com E-MAIL



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**Ralph Miljanich**  
Associate Financial Advisor  
Assistant Branch Manager

716 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

toll-free 800 488 3436  
tel 831 426 4500  
direct 831 457 4358  
fax 831 423 5003  
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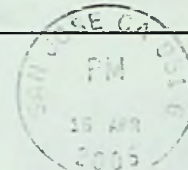
ralph.miljanich@morganstanley.com

## THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

P.O. Box 226  
Watsonville, CA. 95077



Ann Backovich  
21 Jefferson St.  
Watsonville, CA 95076



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